

Government or its agencies, and securities issued by building and loan associations or cooperatives.

(p) Any member or employee who is a trustee or other fiduciary or a beneficiary of a trust or estate holding securities not exempted by paragraph (o) of this section, shall report the existence and nature of such trust or estate to the Director of Personnel. The transactions of such trust or estate, which is not a qualified blind trust, shall be subject to all the provisions of this section except if the member or employee did not create the trust, is solely a beneficiary, has no power to control, and does not in fact control or advise with respect to the investments of the trust or estate, unless the Commission shall otherwise direct in view of the circumstances of the particular case.

(q) The Director of Personnel, or his designee, is authorized to require the disposition of securities acquired as a result of a violation of the provisions of this section, whether unintentional or not. Repeated violations shall be reported to the Commission for appropriate action.

(r) Any member or employee who believes that the application of any of the provisions of this rule will result in undue hardship in a particular case may make a written application to the Commission (through the Director of Personnel) setting out, in detail, the reasons for that belief and requesting a waiver. However, as a matter of policy the Commission favors a strict interpretation of the provisions of this rule.

[53 FR 18553, May 24, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 43464, Aug. 24, 1994; 60 FR 52626, Oct. 10, 1995]

§ 200.735-6 Action in case of personal interest.

Any employee assigned to work on any application, filing or matter of a company (a) in which he or she or his or her spouse or his or her minor unemancipated child then owns any securities or has a personal interest, including a continuing financial interest in a pension or retirement plan, shared income, or other arrangement, as a result of any current or prior employment or business or professional association; or (b) with which he or she has

been employed or associated in the past 5 years; or (c) which was a client of a firm with which he or she had been associated, shall immediately advise his or her Division Director or other Office Head or Regional Administrator of the fact. Division Directors, Office Heads and Regional Administrators are authorized to direct the reporting employee to continue with the assignment in question where this appears in the interest of the Government, taking into account (1) the prohibitions stated in § 200.735-3(b) (7) and (8); (2) the general desirability of avoiding situations that require a question of conflict of interest to be resolved; (3) the extent to which the employee's activities will be supervised; and (4) the difficulty of assigning the matter to some other employee. Where the employee in question is not relieved of the assignment, his or her written report concerning the nature of his or her interest shall be forwarded to the Director of Personnel with a notation that he or she has been directed to continue the assignment, together with such explanation, if any, as may seem appropriate. In the event that a Division Director, Office Head or Regional Administrator deems that he or she has, himself or herself, such a personal interest in an application, filing or matter of a company as may raise a question as to his or her disinterestedness, he or she may delegate his or her responsibility with regard thereto to a subordinate, but in that event shall submit a brief memorandum of the circumstances to the Director of Personnel.¹⁸

[45 FR 36064, May 29, 1980; 45 FR 40975, June 17, 1980]

¹⁸ 18 U.S.C. 208, provides among other things, that a member or employee is prohibited from participating personally and substantially in any matter in which to his knowledge, he, his spouse, minor child, partner, organization in which he is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest. This section (of the Criminal Code) does not apply if the employee has received a written determination made by an authorized official that the interest is not so substantial as to be deemed